

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
Notice of Public Meeting and Public Comment for a Total Maximum Daily Load
Study in Sandy Bottom Branch and Tributary, Accomack County

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality will host a public meeting on a water quality study for Sandy Bottom Branch and tributary, located in Accomack County, on **Wednesday February 3, 2010**.

The meeting will start at **6:00 p.m.** in the Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission office located at 23372 Front Street Accomac, Virginia. The purpose of the meeting is to provide information and discuss the study with interested local community members and local government.

Sandy Bottom Branch (VAT-C10R-02) and its tributary (VAT-C10R-01) were identified in Virginia's 1998 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report as impaired for not supporting the Aquatic Life Use. The impairments are based on biological monitoring data of the stream's benthic community. Virginia agencies are working to identify the stressors that are affecting the benthic communities in these Creeks.

Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act and §62.1-44.19:7.C of the Code of Virginia, require DEQ to develop TMDLs for pollutants responsible for each impaired water contained in Virginia's 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report and subsequent Water Quality Assessment Reports.

During the study, DEQ will develop a Total Maximum Daily Load for the impaired waters. A TMDL is the total amount of a pollutant a water body can contain and still meet water quality standards. To restore water quality, pollutant levels have to be reduced to the TMDL amount.

The public comment period on materials presented at this meeting will extend from February 3, 2010 to March 5, 2010. For additional information or to submit comments, contact Jennifer Howell, in the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Tidewater Regional Office, 5636 Southern Blvd, Virginia Beach VA 23462, by phone (757) 518-2111 or by e-mail jshowell@deq.virginia.gov.

* Additional information is also available on the DEQ web site at www.deq.virginia.gov/tmdl.

